Schemes to promote water conservation

†1583. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any scheme to promote water conservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the states where this scheme has been started; and

(d) the amount provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (b) Water conservation is an important activity envisaged in the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP) and the Integrated Wasterland Development Programme (IWDP) being implemented by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development. Further, a one-time programme has been launched during 2002-2003 for restoration of at least one existing village pond/tank by pooling funds released for Watershed Development Programme namely DPAP, DDP, IWDP including Employment Assurance Scheme (Watershed Projects), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Drinking Water Supply Component).

(c) Watershed Development Projects and IWDP are under implementation in all the State of the country except the State of Goa. Such projects are under implementation under DPAP and DDP in all the Programme Districts.

(d) An amount of Rs. 885.00 crores have been provided in the Budget Estimates for the year 2002-2003 for the Ministry of Rural Development for the above three Programmes.

Funds to Panchayati Raj institutions for water harvesting

1584. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fund has been allotted to Panchayati Raj Institutions for preservation and rejuvenation of tanks, construction of barrages, check dams, nala bounds all small structures for harvesting water;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total fund allotted and utilized during the last three years, year wise and State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the projects implemented/proposed to be implemented for harvesting water in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) No specific funds were allotted to Panchayati Raj Institutions for preservation and rejuvenation of tanks, construction of barrages, check dams, nala bunds etc. for harvesting water. However, these activities are covered under Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and are also envisaged under the three Watershed Development Programme (DDP) and the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) being implemented by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development. The projects under these Programmes are implemented by the Watershed Committees/ Watershed Associations under the guidance of a Technical Team of the Project Implementation Agencies.

Further, a one-time programme has also been launched during 2002-2003 for rejuvenation of at least one existing village pond/tank by pooling funds released for Watershed Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), including Employment Assurance Scheme (Watershed Projects), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Drinking Water Supply Component). For this programme, the Gram Panchayat is the nodal agency for implementation.

Decline in availability of drinking water

1585. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a continuous decline in the availability of drinking water in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the districts, if so, the details thereof;